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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It is a further object of the present invention to provide such a non-metallic composite insert that eliminates metal use in conventional inserts so that the over all weight of the blowout preventer is substantially reduced.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Two embodiments of the blowout preventer packing element with non-metallic composite inserts will hereinafter be further described.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

--Figure 2a is a cross-sectional view along line 2a-2a in **Figure 2.** --
--**Figure 3** is a plane view of the non-metallic composite insert.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 28 and continuing to page 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As stated above, upper and lower flanges 30 and 35, of the inserts 25, serve to control endwise flow of the flexible non-metallic composite material in the packing element 10, but the web components 40, of the inserts 25, also plays a part in directing the flow of non-metallic composite. Annular flexible non-metallic composite body 20 is molded so that its outer surface 22 projects radially outwardly beyond the outer edges of the non-metallic composite inserts, so that cushion layer of non-metallic composite is disposed between the inserts. As the packing element is compressed inwardly, the average diameter of packing element surface 22, is reduced, producing a displacement of the flexible non-metallic composite material that carries non-metallic composite inserts 25 inwardly via the adhesive bond between the flexible non-metallic

composite and the non-metallic composite inserts, particularly via the non-metallic composite/non-metallic composite bond line at the arcuate trailing (outer edge 55) of the web portion of the inserts. The flexible non-metallic composite displacement is greatest in spaces 23 between the inserts since this portion of the non-metallic composite is compressed by the inserts as they are moved together by the advancement of actuator, and further because the portions of the non-metallic composite lying in respective spaces 23, are furthest from the non-metallic composite/elastomeric bond lines. The bond lines at the respective leading edges of the inserts restrict movement of the non-metallic composite ahead of the leading inner arcuate edges 23, of the elastomeric web portions, producing an inward bulging of the non-metallic composite material at inner surface 24, ahead of spaces 23, when the packing element 10, is compressed.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The I-beam like geometry of the dumbbell shaped web portions provides the optimum reinforcing capabilities for a given volume of flexible non-metallic composite material in the packing element 10. This relationship, together with the reduced stress and strain produced at the bond line by the relatively large surface area at the leading and trailing arcuate edge portion 50 and 55, of the webs 40, leads to an increase in the number of closures that the packing element can safely sustain in operation.--